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Agenda item 129

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Committee following informal consultations

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

The General Assembly.

1

Revised estimates resulting from the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,² subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Decides* to establish one P-4 post and one General Service (Other level) post under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 effective 1 April 2011;
4. *Also decides* that an additional amount of 815,625 United States dollars (at initial 2010-2011 rates) under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (529,400 dollars), section 23, Human rights (236,800 dollars), section 28E, Administration, Geneva (25,500 dollars), and section 36, Staff assessment (23,925 dollars), to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1. Income from staff assessment, should be met from

¹ A/65/628.

² A/65/739.

within the resources already appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the above, as necessary, in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011;

II

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Office in Burundi and United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq

Recalling its resolution 64/244 A and section VI of its resolution 64/245 of 24 December 2009, section IV of its resolution 64/260 of 29 March 2010 and its resolution 65/260 A and section XIII of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Office in Burundi and United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq,³ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁴

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁴ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Underscores* the need for a smooth transition from the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi to the United Nations Office in Burundi;
4. *Takes note* of paragraphs 21, 26 and 32 (a) of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁴
5. *Approves* the budget for the United Nations Office in Burundi in the amount of 22,145,800 United States dollars net (23,989,700 dollars gross) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011;
6. *Also approves* the budget for the United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq in the amount of 24,600 United States dollars net (24,600 dollars gross) for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2011 and notes that the requirements of the Representative will be accommodated from within the overall appropriation for special political missions and reported to the Assembly in the context of the second performance report;
7. *Decides* to appropriate, under the provisions of its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the amount of 7,504,600 United States dollars under section 3, Political affairs, and 624,800 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of

³ A/65/328/Add.6 and Corr.1.

⁴ A/65/602/Add.1.

the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, taking into consideration the amount of 14,641,200 dollars already approved for the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (the predecessor mission);

8. *Also decides* to utilize the unencumbered balance of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi to offset part of the additional appropriation required for the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to meet the additional requirements of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi from the overall appropriations for special political missions, and to report thereon in the context of the performance report for the biennium 2010-2011;

III

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Recalling its resolution 35/221 of 17 December 1980, section VII of its resolution 55/238 of 23 December 2000 and its resolution 58/266 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling also its resolution 3357 (XXIX) of 18 December 1974, in which the General Assembly recognized that the salaries and allowances of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the International Civil Service Commission should be established separately from those of the staff of organizations for which the Commission has the power to recommend or determine such salaries and allowances and that the remuneration and status of the Chair and Vice-Chair should be such as to permit them to speak on equal terms with executive heads,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁵ as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁶

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁵
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁶ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Takes note* of paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁶
4. *Decides* to discontinue the use of the consumer price index as the basis for annual adjustments to the annual net compensation of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the International Civil Service Commission and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

⁵ A/65/676.

⁶ A/65/767.

5. *Also decides* that the annual net compensation of the Chair of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions be set at 224,833 United States dollars, including a special allowance, effective 1 January 2011, and that the pensionable remuneration be adjusted accordingly to 279,283 dollars;

6. *Further decides* that the annual net compensation of the Vice-Chair of the International Civil Service Commission be set at 214,833 United States dollars, effective 1 January 2011, and that the pensionable remuneration be adjusted accordingly to 264,320 dollars;

7. *Decides* that, effective 1 January 2012, the annual net compensation of the three officials shall be subject to a cost-of-living adjustment equivalent to the annual change in the midpoint net base salary of the most senior officials in the Secretariat, namely the Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General;

8. *Also decides* to review every four years the other elements of the conditions of service of the three officials, including the special allowances for the Chair of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the education grant, the installation grant and the survivor's benefit, with the next review to be conducted at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

9. *Recalls* rule 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and decides that, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for other agenda items, the Secretary-General shall henceforth submit reports on the conditions of service of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the International Civil Service Commission and of the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions directly to the Assembly;

IV

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Recalling its resolution 42/214 of 21 December 1987, section IV, paragraph 14, of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, section IV of its resolution 60/255 of 8 May 2006, section XV of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007 and section II of its resolution 63/268 of 7 April 2009, and its decision 57/589 of 18 June 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel,⁷ the report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the feasibility of harmonizing standards of travel⁸ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁹

Having also considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review of travel arrangements within the United Nations system"¹⁰ and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,¹¹

⁷ A/65/348.

⁸ A/65/386.

⁹ A/65/632.

¹⁰ See A/65/338.

¹¹ A/65/338/Add.1.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel;⁷
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁹ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Regrets* that the Secretary-General has not presented the comprehensive report mentioned in section II, paragraph 3, of its resolution 63/268, based on a review by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and specific proposals, with a view to harmonizing standards of travel for staff of the United Nations common system, indicating the measures that can be implemented under the authority of the Secretary-General, as well as those that will require the approval of the Assembly;
4. *Recognizes* the need for efficient and effective air travel to effectively implement the mandates of the United Nations by enabling direct contacts;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve, as a matter of urgency, the management of air travel in the United Nations and to pursue the more effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel, including through the implementation of the measures outlined in the annex to the present resolution;
6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the procurement process for all air travel management services contracts is conducted in full compliance with the general procurement principles set out in financial regulation 5.12, namely: (a) best value for money; (b) fairness, integrity and transparency; (c) effective competition; and (d) the interest of the United Nations,¹² and to ensure that the procurement process includes the option of awarding a contract to multiple vendors to allow for greater competition among the selected vendors;
7. *Stresses* the importance of effective coordination among United Nations entities in harmonizing the standards and practices of acquiring air travel services, and encourages the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Systems Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to promote the sharing of best practices with respect to air travel across the United Nations system;
8. *Notes* the increase in exceptions authorized by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 42/214, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to better govern the granting of such exceptions;
9. *Decides* to extend to the Deputy Secretary-General the entitlements regarding official travel accorded to the Secretary-General in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 42/214;
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the more effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel, to present proposals at the first part of its resumed sixty-sixth session on the conditions under which staff members below the level of Assistant Secretary-General may travel in business class;
11. *Notes with concern* the lack of consolidated and comprehensive data on air travel across the United Nations system, and stresses the need for such

¹² ST/SGB/2003/7.

information to be provided to the General Assembly in the context of the programme budget;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to conduct a comprehensive audit of all air travel activities and related practices, including on: (a) the implementation of all provisions contained in the present resolution; (b) the delegation of authority by the Secretary-General for the granting of exceptions for air travel; (c) processes related to bidding on air travel services in the United Nations and their procurement; and (d) the identification of all expenditures for air travel, using the most recent data available, under the programme budget, for peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and for lump-sum payments to eligible staff members, and to carry out a cost-benefit analysis for this option and to submit the findings of the audit and the analysis to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-seventh session;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the projected total expenditure on air travel under the regular budget, by budget section, including payments under lump-sum schemes, for the biennium 2010-2011, with corresponding data for the bienniums 2008-2009 and 2006-2007, at the main part of its sixty-sixth session;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at the first part of its resumed sixty-sixth session, on the implementation of the present resolution, including the measures set out in the annex, and on practical steps taken to enhance the effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel in the United Nations;

15. *Decides* to consider the issue of a system for allowing United Nations staff to provide data on frequent flyer miles accrued as a result of official air travel at the first part of its resumed sixty-sixth session.

Annex

Measures for the effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel in the United Nations

1. The delegation to the Under-Secretary-General for Management or any other senior management official of the Secretary-General's authority to grant exceptions for air travel, should be done with a formal non-transferable letter of appointment.

2. In addition, the Secretary-General is requested:

(a) To make a proposal for a mechanism to allow for the effective tracking of all costs associated with commercial air travel in the Secretariat, including with regard to peacekeeping operations, special political missions and lump-sum payments to eligible staff members, and to maximize cost efficiencies in the purchase of air tickets and other services related to air travel, benefiting from best practices, including, but not limited to, those set out in the present resolution;

(b) To promote greater coordination across the United Nations system on air travel matters, including by leveraging the experiences of existing bodies, such as the Inter-Agency Travel Network;

(c) To implement, as a matter of priority, the planned enterprise resource planning/Umoja travel module to facilitate and better regulate all travel activities undertaken by the United Nations, including the collection of data necessary for negotiating global deals with airlines and airline alliances;

(d) To introduce a set of clear and comprehensive guidelines to better regulate the authorization of upgrades in the class of air travel on an exceptional basis, inter alia in the case of a medical condition, restricting such upgrades to not higher than business class, without prejudice to instances of medical emergency, taking into account the opinion of the Director of the Medical Services Division of the United Nations Secretariat and reiterated in the position paper adopted by all medical directors in the United Nations common system in 2007, that there is no substantive difference between business class and first class in terms of the safety of an individual with a medical condition;

(e) To update administrative instruction ST/AI/2006/4, taking into account, inter alia, the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent developments in air travel, such as new products introduced by air carriers and new classes of air travel, and to include provisions instructing staff (a) to collect and, where possible, use frequent flyer miles accrued as a result of official travel to fund official travel; (b) to not use frequent flyer miles for personal travel; and (c) where possible to purchase tickets at least two weeks in advance of travel;

(f) To continue exploring, in the context of section II, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 63/268 of 7 April 2009, all possible options, including various tools for enhancing the effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel across the United Nations system, including forecasting and planning, making online and early bookings, using advance-purchase discount tickets, using frequent flyer miles accumulated by staff members from official travel to purchase and upgrade tickets where appropriate, making alternative arrangements for the procurement of air travel utilizing the collective purchasing power of the United Nations and making the most effective utilization possible of the lump-sum scheme, where applicable;

(g) To ensure that the Travel and Transportation Section properly performs its contract management role by monitoring the performance of air travel vendors and their full compliance with contract provisions including the provision of all information requested by United Nations management entities and oversight bodies.